

to present papers and did not appear at the meeting to do so. They should take thought to themselves in this matter and remember that such conduct may seem but a trivial matter to themselves, but that possibly it may upset the whole value of a symposium or may disappoint many who perhaps have come to the meeting to hear the particular paper in question. A good and sufficient excuse should be made by them to the chairman of the program committee, and an apology is certainly in order. Furthermore, the program committee should consider the advisability of excluding such members from place in future programs.

The exhibition of the Pure Food Commission was a revelation of the enormous amount of work done by the Commission and attracted the attention of everyone present. The Commission is entitled to the thanks of the entire Society for the manner in which it has inaugurated this most important work and the great progress it has made during the past year. As will be seen from the minutes, the name of the commission has been changed to the public health committee, of five members, which committee will carry on the work so well begun. Copies of public health bills and ordinances, national, state and municipal, from all parts of the country, have been laboriously gathered together and were on exhibition. The milk and water supplies were treated by photographs in large number showing clean and unclean plants. Nor had food adulteration or improper preservation been forgotten and the edifying spectacle was presented of a lunch table, every article on which was either adulterated, sophisticated, or preserved by some injurious ingredient. The plan for continuing the work is through a committee whose members shall serve five years, thus preserving the integrity of the personnel of the committee, and securing the co-operation of the county organizations by means of auxiliary members or sub-committees in the various counties. Every possible aid and co-operation should be given to this most important movement and to the members of the committee who have performed their task with such remarkable success.

THE NEW OFFICERS.

As provided by the constitution, the election of officers was taken up by the house of delegates as the first order of business at the second session, Wednesday, April 22d. San Jose and Del Monte were nominated for the next annual meeting, and the former place chosen by a large vote. Dr. King, of Los Angeles, then nominated Dr. W. W. Beckett, of Los Angeles, for president; the nomination was seconded by Dr. F. Dudley Tait, of San Francisco, and as there were no other nominations, the secretary was instructed to cast the ballot of the House of Delegates for Dr. Beckett for president for the ensuing year. The other officers were elected in

the same manner and are as follows: First vice-president, Dr. Fred. Baker, San Diego; second vice-president, Dr. E. G. McConnell, San Francisco; secretary, Dr. Philip Mills Jones, San Francisco; all the retiring councillors were elected to succeed themselves, as follows: Drs. Ewer, Oakland; Osborne, Santa Clara; Mays, Sausalito; Grosse, San Francisco, and Pottenger, Los Angeles. The full minutes will be found elsewhere in this issue of the JOURNAL and from them the various elected committees can be ascertained.

With each passing year the American Medical Association grows, not alone in numbers nor in the circulation of its *Journal*, but in influence upon the history of medicine. The meeting this year is of unusual importance for several reasons. It is to be held in Chicago, the city of the official home of the Association and where its material possessions are located, and also the Association has not met there for many years—over a quarter of a century, if memory serves. The regular sessions will be held from June 2nd to June 5th and of course will not fall behind the standard of excellence which has been set for them in past years. In addition to these official sessions, however, we understand that a series of clinics is being arranged which will last for several weeks after the regular meeting and which will be of the greatest value to those who can avail themselves of the opportunity of thus taking a short postgraduate course. This scheme of postgraduate work fits in so well with the modern idea of medical organization for improvement and for the benefit of the public health, that one must wonder that it has only so recently been undertaken by county societies; it is certainly most fortunate that something of the same idea is to be placed before the members of the Association at the coming meeting. Every one of us who can possibly do so should attend this meeting of the A. M. A.—and in fact every meeting—and we should not allow some trifling thing to keep us away. Remember the place—Chicago—and the time—June 2nd-5th.

It is an ancient practice, when one is having the worst of a discussion or argument, to construct some fictional statement, allege that the other fellow has put it forth and then attack this visionary thing which has been created for that very purpose as though it really was a vital issue. That is what has been termed putting up and fighting "straw men." These few words are called forth by some of the absurd attacks which have recently been made upon the council on pharmacy and chemistry of the A. M. A. Sundry of the independent (?) medical (?) journals of the country have howled and wailed because the council is not composed of physicians, has few or no physicians on it, and is

THE A. M. A.

STRAW MEN.